Gurgaon, Panipat, Ludhiana, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bhiwandi, Ichalkaranjee, Burhanpur, Salem-Erode, Varanasi-Mau, Meerut-Pilakhua, Surat, Solapur, Calcutta (knitting), Chennai, Cannannor, Amritsar, Baddi (Himachal Pradesh), Maleg and Bhilwara. The Scheme also has a provision to cover new/emerging centres including powerloom clusters as well.

World Bank Observation on Chinese Garment Export

3556. SHRIPREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per a recent report in the press, the World Bank has predicted that by 2010, China's garment export will have risen by 375 per cent and will constitute 47 per cent of the world's total exports;

(b) whether India will have to gear up much faster if it is to compete with China and maintain its leading position of exports in this sector; and

(c) if so, the action Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No such press report has come to the notice of Ministry of Textiles. However, as per the study got conducted by the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council from M/s. Gherzi Eastern Ltd., the Chinese global targets for the year 2005 are as follows:

Item	2000	2005	% Change
Export earnings (billion US $)	52	70-75	38%-44%
Share of Textiles for			
— Garments	67%	64%	-3%
— Home Textiles	20%	21%	1%
— Technical Textiles	13%	15%	2%
Productivity (Labour)	21000 RMS 40% (2540 US $)	35000 RMS (4234 US $)	

(b) and (c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to increase the export competitiveness of India's garment industry *vis-a-vis* neighbouring countries including China. Some of the important initiatives are:

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.

(U) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.

(v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower, requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

(vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCEDS)" has been launched.